

From the Desk of 911 Coordinator Brenda Vande Voorde



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Ms. Marlene Dortch  
Secretary Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WT Docket 94-102

Fayette County is located in scenic Northeast Iowa comprised of 720 square miles of rolling farmland, scenic bluffs overlooking river valleys, and several recreational areas that serve a population of 22,000 citizens, as well as hundreds of travelers and tourists annually. So you can imagine what obstacles our scenic bluffs and valleys cause wireless communications.

As the E911 Coordinator for Fayette County, and a member of APCO and NENA, I strongly support wireless 9-1-1 accuracy testing be done at the local community level. If compliance is not required locally, rather than at the national level, I feel some areas of public safety will be left with lower, some even very poor, levels of location accuracy. I strongly recommend testing be conducted at the PSAP level. They are the best indicator of the accuracy in their coverage areas. It should not be left to the wireless carriers to determine what accuracy level is sufficient for compliance. Furthermore, I strongly recommend follow up testing, or re-testing, on a periodic basis, perhaps annually, or no less frequently than bi-annually.

It is the local public safety answering points that will be impacted by the ruling for wireless accuracy. Please keep them in mind when you research, study, and present your ruling. They will be the point of contact the public is relying on to determine their location when they cannot provide it, and will be most impacted by this issue.

I recommend the Commission take the appropriate action in the best interest of public safety. Establish clear guidelines regarding the relevant geographic area in which wireless carriers must provide and test E9-1-1 accuracy to specific levels, and establish the basis for re-testing on a specified basis.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my thoughts, as an E911 Coordinator, on this issue.

Sincerely,

*Brenda Vande Voorde*

